

# MOZNEWS

EDUARDO AND CLAUDIA MAIA NEWS FROM MOZAMBIQUE - MAY 2009

## Claudia's News

Hello again dear friends. Grace and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ. On May 6th we completed one year in Mozambique!! Looking over our first year here, we can say that we have cried a lot, we have learned a lot and we have changed. We thank God for every single moment because we truly believe that "all things are working together for good to those who have love for God, and have been marked out by his purpose (Romans 8:28)".

On January this year we had the opportunity to go to Liberia and visit the Ghanta Hospital. I worked together with the community health team and went to the communities to see the projects that they are developing. I have learned a lot about how the communities are organized, which are the strategies of approaching, how to start a project and etc. I thank UMCOR for this great chance.

Past year I have worked hard writing two projects concerning HIV/AIDS and biosafety for Chicuque's Hospital and The Center of Hope. They were submitted to the Mozambique Department of HIV/AIDS fighting but, unfortunately they were not approved because of changes in approval policy. However, we already did another project concerning community health work and we are positive that we will start working in the communities soon.

While that I am rewriting a project to establish a Microbiology laboratory in Chicuque's hospital and also continue my work with education in health involving prevention on HIV/AIDS, malaria, sexual transmitted disease, etc. I go to schools to give lectures on this subject, we go to market places, squares and communities to present drama and give lectures or promote other educative/preventive activities. I also distribute mosquito treated net at the hospital and work at home developing projects and doing research on relevant and necessary matters.

Many projects are in my mind right now and many are the needs. I realize that I can be useful in many ways and in diverse areas, which is very good, but it is necessary to have focus and set the priorities. For that I ask your prayers, so may God give me wisdom and diligence.

I look forward to work more into the communities and I am positive that this will happen soon, thus I also ask your prayers for the Center Of Hope so that we have funds to finish one wing of the building and make it functional this year. Please divulge COH advance and help us on this goal!



Singing with Chicuque Rural Hospital Choir - Easter

### WORK WITH THE CHURCH

All Sundays I meet with the Youth of Chicuque United Methodist Church for our Sunday School. Little by little they are getting more interested and the attendance is improving. I have discovered that I love to teach!

I felt that God calling me to make two disciples this year. I will teach them the scriptures and I will walk with them sharing the love and grace of Christ. Please, pray for Felicidade and Damasceno so they can have a personal and profound relationship with Jesus and have their lives transformed by the Gospel.

### DICTIONARY!

I finally got a Xisthwa/Portuguese dictionary borrowed and I hope to improve my learning of this dialect as fast as I can!

### METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

This year I was invited again by the director of the Cambine M.T seminary to give lectures on sexuality, HIV/AIDS and related issues to the students of all classes. Last year was very good with a great involvement and interest. Let it be so this year as well. God-spell!



Playing a role on a Domestic Violence drama on April the 7th: Mozambican Women Day.



Mosquito treated net distribution at Chicuque Rural Hospital



Community Children in Liberia

# Eduardo's News

## CHICUQUE HOSPITAL UPDATE

After a difficult end of the year, Chicuque Hospital is trying to recover. It has not been easy. We still miss a lot of medical supplies and medicines, as we are waiting to receive new staff. Unfortunately, one surgery technician suffered a motorcycle accident on March. Since then, I am in charge of the surgery and my work journey it is doubled. A lot of work, many surgeries. Just on March more than 130 procedures were performed by me. Hernias, hydroceles, burns, cesarian sections and trauma and non-trauma laparotomies are just few examples. In meanwhile, I am trying to change the ward care and the emergency room attendance. It's not easy to change some things. The culture barrier can't be denied. In this way the changes are made little by little.

Since January the new outpatient building was opened. It has beautiful and well constructed rooms, where the patients now receive day treatment and consultation. It has 6 consultation rooms, one big outpatient treatment room, and one US room. It was funded by the Mozambique Health Ministry in association with the Columbia University and the FDC. Soon, it will start there chemotherapy for Kaposy's Sarcoma (a type of cancer common in HIV patients).

Last month, we were visited by a german group. They are from the Martha-Marie's Hospitals in German, a big partner of Chicuque's Hospital. They could visit the new installations and see the hospital improvements and difficulties. As the first time they came here in 2004, they brought some gifts. One of these is a new ultrasound

machine. Therefore, one of my goals for the next months is to learn and to improve my abilities in ultrasonography, so more people could be helped.

## FISTULA PROJECT

In January, funded by UMCOR, I could go to Liberia's Hospital, for a short course on fistula surgery. In Mozambique, as in many Africa countries, pregnancy assistance is very poor. Two problems: 1) there is no health centers, maternity wards and professionals enough to attend every woman; 2) a lot of pregnant women don't go to the health center to monitor themselves. What happens then? The maternal-fetal morbid-mortality here is very high. A lot of women only search the hospital when they have a big problem. One of those, is a obstructed labor. There is 3 major complications for that: 1) loss of the baby; 2) uterus rupture; 3) fistula vesico-vaginal. This last one is the worst for women life's quality. In that case what happens is that the urine passes without her will or control. She is always wet and with a bad odor. She is discriminated by everyone. In Mozambique a few centers can repair this damage. For example, in Inhambane's province (where Chicuque is located) no one could do that, until now. I am very glad to inform that I did the first two cases this month, and a few more are scheduled for the next weeks. I hope I could help a lot of women to return to their social life soon.

## Prayers Request

1. Chicuque Hospital
2. Center of Hope
3. Our Health
4. Fistula Project
5. Summer VIM trips to Chicuque
6. Our families
7. Mozambique UMC



### DO YOU WANT TO SUPPORT US?

Access: [www.givetomission.org](http://www.givetomission.org)

Advance: give through the numbers

# 3019573 > Eduardo

# 3019574 > Cláudia

# 09734A > Chicuque Hospital

# 15031A > Center of Hope

*Thanks and God bless you!*



US machine reception by Hospital Staff



Two fistula patients after surgery

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